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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1948

SUBJECT

Von Paulus Army Non-Coms  
Deployed in Germany

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- About mid-March 1948 it was announced that quarters for approximately seven hundred members of the Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland were to be prepared within the following few days at the former Wehrmacht athletic school in Wunsdorf (Brandenburg). Later, a group of 600 returned PWs who arrived in Furstenwalde (Spree) on 8 April was quartered in the Wunsdorf school. Simultaneously, the SED press mentioned briefly the arrival in Furstenwalde of a transport which was labelled "a group of specially trained returnees."
- Seventy members of the group were immediately sent on to Leipzig, while the rest remained in Wunsdorf. [redacted] they are not members of the Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland and are not former officers. Without exception, they were all former non-coms (Feldwebel). With a few exceptions, who went through the political indoctrination camp at Anastasiewka near Mariupol, all belonged to units of the von Paulus army.
- The men are supposed to be assigned as leaders of units of a German Border Corps (Grenzschutz-Korps), said to be in formation at present. Several units of this new border corps are reported already to have been activated in the southwestern part of the Harz mountains and in the Erzgebirge area. The organizational pattern of these formations is not known; however, they will probably consist of independent battalions. As soon as these battalions have taken their positions along the borders, they will relieve the police units assembled from the Russian Zone and now on duty there, since the use of German police has left large portions of the zone, especially Mecklenburg, without effective police coverage.
- The non-coms waiting in Wunsdorf have been selected to meet special qualifications: in addition to their political and military training, it is noted that they all come from formerly German areas, chiefly East Prussia and Silesia. In Wunsdorf they seem to enjoy unusual freedom of movement, but they obviously avoid contact with the German population.

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